

Grants + Funding

Questions about New Homes Bonus Grant (NHB)

Frequently Asked Questions

South Gloucestershire Council is able to give grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and town and parish councils to help them with their projects. The project must have community involvement and be local or extend across the whole of South Gloucestershire.

This document provides answers to the most commonly asked questions and explains what you can use the New Homes Bonus Grant for.

In view of the Shadow Secretary of State's announcement on the New Homes Bonus grant, the Policy and Resources Committee on 2 February 2015 indicated that decisions about the allocation of the 2015/16 devolved New Homes Bonus funds would need to wait until the July 2015 cycle of Area Forum meetings.

The funding that is available for award and resulting from the carry forward from 2014 / 2015 is shown below.

Area Forum	Amount available
Frome Vale	£35,195
Kings Forest	£136,504
Severn Vale	£0
Southern Brooks	£TBC
The Chase	£TBC

What is the New Homes Bonus Grant?

This is a grant which the Council receives annually from central government, and was designed to be an incentive for local authorities to build and refurbish new homes. Every year, for a period of six years following the year the house was built, the Council will receive a grant equivalent to the council tax that would be payable on those new homes.

This will be added to every year when new houses are built until the Government stops the program. As the number of new homes that start to be built in our area increases, the amount of grant we receive will also increase and as the number of new homes built starts to decrease, our funding will decrease. The NHB scheme started in 2011/2012, and it is

intended to finish in 2019/2020, subject to central government and Council decisions.

What can I use the grant for?

Projects should be substantial, sustainable and provide a legacy for the areas in which they are located.

Grants from this fund are expected to be substantially higher than those awarded from other funding streams that we manage. Because of this, we expect much more detail in your application. This may take the form of a supplementary project or business plan. We will provide you with a template for the plan if we think you need one.

Are there any items you will not fund?

Generally, applications from organisations that are based outside South Gloucestershire are not accepted unless your project benefits South Gloucestershire residents. **You cannot apply for a grant to cover the cost of an item that has already been bought or for a project that has already been completed.**

Applications for a New Homes Bonus grant are not normally expected to fund staffing or other operating costs. If you do include revenue costs like this, we expect to see an exit strategy that will cover these costs when the grant has been spent. This would need to cover any redundancy costs if appropriate.

Please note that this grant does not fund the building or refurbishment of new homes.

How do I start my application?

The New Homes Bonus grant is designed as part of the Council's policy on localism. This means that we expect you to engage with other local partners (including town and parish councils where appropriate) to develop your proposals. Use this as an opportunity to begin your business plan by having clear evidence of the need for your project, and to leverage third party funding. You should also include community consultation and engagement as part of your plan.

How long do I have to apply?

See the Grants Planner for a detailed timetable of what you need to do. It shows key dates and milestones for what happens to your application.

How much can I apply for?

There is no maximum grant limit and it is unusual for councillors to award less than £3,000. Councillors will not usually consider more than one application from the same organisation in any one year unless they are for clearly separate projects.

Councillors are able to commit funding throughout the year so it is advisable to check with the Equalities and Third Sector (ETS) team what funding is available in your area forum prior to you completing a full application.

If we are successful, is there a time limit for us to spend the money?

Generally we would expect all projects to be completed by the end of the calendar year from when the grant was awarded.

How do I apply?

Online through the grants system. All groups must register before an application can be submitted.

It is a grant condition that you include your governance document, accounts and policy documents with your registration. If you need further advice and support with developing any of the listed policies, contact CVS South Gloucestershire for advice and training (contact details given below).

<i>Accounts</i>	Either audited final accounts; profit and loss and balance sheet; or income and expenditure account
<i>Governing document</i>	These are your organisational 'rules' and include Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association
<i>Equality and diversity policy</i>	It is a requirement for all organisations to have an equality and diversity policy in place. Please submit a copy with your Registration or provide an explanation of its development.

<i>Safeguarding policy</i>	It is a requirement for all organisations to have a safeguarding policy in place which covers the organisational responsibility for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Please submit a copy with your Registration or provide an explanation of its development.
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Can we apply for part-funding of a project?

Yes, but you will need to evidence where the other contribution is coming from. In these circumstances, the award will be dependent on you having proof of the funding source.

We can't contribute cash, but our volunteers give their time and we have donations in kind from our community. Is this taken into account?

Yes, we look at all aspects of your organisation to see how well you are supported and engage with the community. Your contribution can be made by calculating the value of volunteering time as well.

Who makes the decisions on applications?

With help and advice from specialist assessors councillors make those decisions at public Area Forum meetings. You will be invited to attend a meeting and have the chance to make a short presentation to councillors. Go to the Area Forum Guidance Notes for information on the Area Forums.

How long is the grant process?

It can take from four to six months before a decision is made. See the Grants Planner for a schedule of what happens to your application. However, for New Homes Bonus it could

be longer as it may be very much dependant on circumstances beyond the control of the Council.

Is there any follow up?

We ask you to return a short survey to feedback on our performance. At the end of your project, we will ask you to report back and to include copies of invoices and other proof of expenditure. Any funds not used must be returned to the Council.

Where can I get more advice about the New Homes Bonus Grant? (All contact details are in 'More Information'. See below)

The Grants Helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

You can contact CVS South Gloucestershire for training, policy development and advice on other funding sources.

If you are planning a substantial project that may involve multiple partners or other funders, we would advise you to contact the Grants helpline at the earliest opportunity.

The following strategic documents may also be of help to you and these can be downloaded from the:

- The Council Strategy 2012 2016
- South Gloucestershire Compact July 2014

More information?

Grants Helpline	01454 865865
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Email enquiries	grants@southglos.gov.uk
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CVS South Gloucestershire	01454 865 250
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Minicom	01454 868 010
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SMS text	07950 080 111
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Free internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries

This information can be made available in other formats. Please phone 01454868009 if you need help to access Council services.

The **South Gloucestershire Compact** is an agreement to support partnership working between the public sector and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. Visit our website at <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/stronger-communities/the-south-gloucestershire-compact/> for more information about how the Compact can help you.